

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

630 Sansome Street
San Francisco, California 94111

2700 (2300)

January 4, 1971



Dr. and Mrs. Richard Koch
6334 W. 80th Street
Los Angeles, California 90045

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Koch:

I apologize for taking so long in replying to your October 13 letter.

Verne Smith and I are well acquainted, and we have discussed the overall Mineral King situation. I promised to send him written material on the proposed Mineral King winter sports development, and to discuss the parking problem with Forest Supervisor Jim James.

The posting of informational literature was mentioned. I told him that I was aware of the abuses but do not recall telling him that individuals could post material. In his July 15 letter to Congressman Waldie (a copy was sent to you), Forest Supervisor James clearly stated the Forest Service position. These regulations and policy for Mineral King apply elsewhere on National Forest lands as well.

Until such time as the Mineral King situation is resolved, the Sequoia National Forest will be managing this area on an interim plan basis. Regardless of the outcome, we agree that this area must be managed under sound environmental practices.

For a number of years, Forest Supervisor James was faced with heavy and increasing public use of Mineral King. The existing few, low quality recreation facilities were overtaxed. This indiscriminate over use resulted in damaged vegetation, soil compaction, littering, and threats to stream and water quality. Clearly, something had to be done.

Because of present budget and manpower restraints, Forest Supervisor James could not build new recreation facilities to properly accommodate the use. His only alternative was to gain some control by restricting camping and parking in undeveloped areas. We prefer a minimum of restrictions, but we must protect the resources and quality of the environment.

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I hope that this adequately clarifies the situation as brought out in your letter. If you have any further questions or wish to discuss this further, I suggest that you contact Forest Supervisor M. R. James, Sequoia National Forest.

Sincerely,

Douglas Leisz

DOUGLAS R. LEISZ
Regional Forester